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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mr. Donald Herbstman, Planning and Construction Safety Supv. WTC
FROM: A. J. Burner
DATE: July 19, 1971
SUBJECT: ASBESTOS INSULATION FIBERS IN THE AIR CONDITION SYSTEM AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER

COPY TO: W. Connell, J. Kirk

In order to determine the possibility of a leak of asbestos insulation material into the air conditioning system of the World Trade Center, this division placed several paper adhesive strips of approximately 12 sq. inches each against the window induction units as well as the supply and return ducts of the air conditioning unit in Room 1907 of the World Trade Center.

The strips were left in place for one hour. Samples were also taken from the filter unit on the seventh floor both before and after the air passed through the filter.

No gross asbestos fibers were observed in any samples when observed under the microscope at magnification twenty diameters.

Information supplied by the American Air Filter Company, manufacturer of the air filters, indicates the filters have a minimum retention of 10 mu. This, plus a constant recirculation of the greater part of the air will tend to purge out any particles larger than 10 mu.

Since the present accepted danger level for asbestos particles is five million per cubic foot of air and this concentration must be inhaled over a long period of time we do not consider the air conditioning system of the World Trade Center a health hazard.

If we can be of any help to you in the future, please let us know.

A. J. Burner, Supervisor
Environmental Sanitation
Inspection and Safety Division

AEK:mem

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